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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—The Academy met in the National Museum, Washington, on Tuesday, April 18, 1882, President W. B. Rogers in the chair. The papers of the first day were :

1. The course of the Gulf stream since the Cretaceous period, Alexander Agassiz. 2. The Pre-cambrian rocks of Italy, T. Sterry Hunt. 3. Notes on the geology of Yucatan, Alexander Agassiz. 4. Desiccation of the Plateau of Mexico, Alexander Agassiz. 5. On the brain of Phenacodus, E. D. Cope. 6. On the young stages of a few osseous fishes, Alexander Agassiz. 7. The affinities of Palæocampa Meek and Worthen, as evidence of the wide diversity of type in the earliest known Myriapods, S. H. Scudder. 8. On the genesis and development of the Chiropterygium from the Ichthyopterygium, Theodore Gill.

Wednesday, April 19, 1882.—9. Preliminary notice of a new Dividing Engine, H. A. Rowland. 10. On photographs of the spectrum of the nebula in Orion, Henry Draper. 11. Theory of concave gratings, H. A. Rowland. 12. On the influence of time on the change in the resistance of the carbon disk of Edison's Tasimeter, T. C. Mendenhall, presented by G. F. Barker. 13. Note on a special form of secondary battery or electric accumulator, Wolcott Gibbs. 14. Researches on complex inorganic acids (continued), Wolcott Gibbs. 15. Biographical notice of Professor John W. Draper, G. F. Barker. 16. Some discoveries that enhance the value of the cotton and orange crops, C. V. Riley.

Thursday, April 20, 1882.—17. The relation of rain-areas to areas of low pressure, Elias Loomis. 18. Description of an Articulate of doubtful relationship from the Tertiary beds of Florissant, Colorado, S. H. Scudder. 19. Mythology of the Zuñi Indians, F. H. Cushing. 20. On the polarization of the light of the Moon, A. W. Wright. 21. On the results of the incandescent lamp tests at the Paris Exhibition, G. F. Barker. 22. On the infra-red portion of the solar spectrum as studied with the bolometer, S. P. Langley.

Friday, April 21, 1882.—23. On the formation of metalliferous vein formation at Sulphur Bank, California, Joseph Leconte. 24. On a form of standard Barometer, A. W. Wright. 25. On a marsupial genus from the Eocene, E. D. Cope. 26. On a fallacy in induction, C. S. Peirce. The committee to examine into the investigations into the value of sorghum as a source of sugar, made an interesting report. Professor Ira Remsen, of Baltimore, was elected a member.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY NATURAL SCIENCES, Dec. 13.—Mr. Ryder described the development of fish eggs. He agreed with His and Rauber in the opinion that the rim of the blastoderm goes to form a part of the muscular plates of the side of the body:

Dec. 20.—Mr. Martindale read a history of the connection of Dr. Ruschenberger with the academy, as testimony to his services, on the occasion of his declining re-nomination to the presidency.

Dec. 27.—As the result of the annual election it was announced that Dr. Jos. Leidy was duly elected president of the Academy.

Jan. 3, 1882.—Mr. Ryder confirmed, by the result of his observations on additional types, the formation of vacuoles in the notochord of teleost fishes; and stated that although the tissue of the neural and enteric portions of the neurenteric canal were continuous, no open canal connected those portions. Dr. Leidy called attention to the composition of the gravels of Philadelphia and its vicinity. The commonest pebbles are quartz or quartzite, while those next in frequency are red-sandstone, probably mesozoic. Conglomerates are also found, but fossiliferous pebbles are very rare.

Jan. 10.—Mr. Heilprin called attention to the tidal theory of Professor Ball, and stated that the existence of life upon the coast tended to nullify some of Professor Ball's conclusions.

Mr. Potts described a new sponge, *Heteromeyenia ryderi*, also a new species of *Tubella*, which he named *T. pennsylvanica*. The seed-bodies of this latter sponge range from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ of an inch in diameter. He showed how the statoblasts of sponges like *Spongilla fragilis* and *Carterella* form layers upon rocks, etc., after the spicules of the sponge have been washed away. The subject of the algaous parasitic chlorophyll cells in certain sponges, infusoria, and mollusks was discussed by the president and Mr. Ryder.

Mr. Meehan related an incident which indicated that sparrow-hawks can see mice when perched at a horizontal distance of 500 feet.

Jan. 17.—Papers upon the new Crinoids of the Chemung period from the State of New York, by H. S. Williams, M. D.; the Species of *Odontomya* found in the United States, by Dr. L. T. Day, and a new station for *Corema Conradii*, by Aubrey H. Smith, were presented for publication. Mr. Redfield spoke of the extreme rarity of *C. Conradii*.

MIDDLESEX INSTITUTE. Feb. 28.—L. L. Dame, president, delivered an instructive lecture, the first in a series of twelve weekly botanical lectures, on the "Growth of the plant from the seed," to a class of nearly fifty members.

March 7.—Mrs. A. J. Dolbear gave the second in the series, her subject being, "Morphology of roots, stems, and branches."

March 8.—President Dame briefly reviewed the first year's work of the Institute, and made some excellent suggestions in regard to the best manner of carrying on the work which the Institute had undertaken.